

AGENDA



Thursday, February 26, 2009

**Item(s) to Set Public Hearing(s)
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 24**

Subject: Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance repealing and replacing Article 4 of Chapter 25-12 (The Electrical Code) of the City Code to adopt the 2008 National Electrical Code and local amendments to the Electrical Code. (Suggested date and time: March 5, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX.)

Fiscal Note: There is no anticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Leon Barba 974-7254; Dan McNabb, 974-2752

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Electric Board.

Prior Council Action: January 1, 2006: Adoption of the 2005 National Electrical Code;
October 18, 2007: Ordinance 20051215-109, Amendment to 2005 National Electric Code.

The National Electrical Code provides a national standard for the electrical installations within both residential and commercial structures. The proposed ordinance establishes local amendments to address particular installations and establishes more stringent standards as recommended by the Electric Board.

Highlights for the Adoption of the 2008 National Electrical Code include arc fault circuit interruption required on additional circuitry in residential structures and tamper resistant receptacles required on all convenience receptacles in residential structures.

Highlights of the local amendments include:

- State Licenses for electrical contractors now provided by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.
- Reduction of the requirement for more restrictive wiring methods in some applications up to five stories.
- New language for Concrete Encased Electrodes allowing contractors flexibility in the installation of the grounding electrode due to the high rate of theft on certain types of metals.
- Reduction of the requirement for the necessity of installing copper conductors as grounding electrode.
- Addition of a Special Inspection program to enhance customer service for contractors who perform repair work.